# Smith's Report

ON THE HOLOCAUST CONTROVERSY

**Number 88** **WWW.CODOH.COM** **February 2002**

## NOTEBOOK

**Bradley R. Smith**

The holidays took fifteen days, maybe more, and very pleasant days they were. Magaly and Randy sent us tickets to fly to the Bay Area for Christmas and we were there eight days in their rented apartment on Alameda Island. The flight took only an hour from San Diego and suddenly it was as if we were in another world. The streets there are lined with beautifully conceived Victorian houses large and small. There is a Main Street lined with shops, cafes and bars just like in the old days. There is even a neo-hippie coffee house.

The days slipped by (I told Magaly) like wet noodles. I don't know why that image came to mind. When I was a kid one of the "Okies" I grew up with called wide noodles "slides" because you didn't have to chew, they just slid down the throat. In the evenings I discovered *The Sopranos*, an HBO television series that has been issued on a CD with thirteen shows collected. Irene and Magaly would

**Continued on page 7**

# THE REVISIONIST

## "DEFUNCT" ACCORDING TO ADL -- YET ACCESSES REACH 250,000 PER MONTH

***The Revisionist***, edited by Richard Widmann and still America's only Online Holocaust revisionist magazine, has now published more than one hundred articles (110 to be exact as of this writing). This is something of a surprise to us because last summer the ADL notified its readers that ***The Revisionist*** was "defunct." How could such a well-informed organization, with so many operatives to feed it the most sensitive information, have been so wrong? It's an interesting story that Widmann addressed in **SR82** (July 2001).

There's one story behind the founding of ***The Revisionist*** that I have not written about here. It's particularly pertinent at this time because I am about to publish a book and will shortly be off on a grand new adventure. The untold story behind the founding of **TR** does not reflect well on my good judgment, but in the interests of full disclosure, as they say, I have decided to confess the entire thing. One day in the summer of 1999 I received a letter from a bank in Minnesota informing me that a subscriber to ***Smith's Report*** had passed away and in her will had left me 17,000 dollars to help with the work.

This was a stunning bit of good news for me. I had never asked that anyone remember me in their will, though

**Continued on page on page 2**

many people had suggested I should. I had never met this particular lady and we had never spoken. I realized that my good fortune was founded on the loss her family had suffered, but still, this is life, it was a wonderful bit of good fortune for me. It was the largest single contribution I had ever received – by several orders of magnitude – a fact that remains today what it was then.

This unexpected contribution arrived at a time when I was already dissatisfied with the achievements of the Campus Project. While the advertisements we were running in university newspapers had been creating one scandal after another for years, and were largely responsible for making revisionism a household word in the academic community, I was unable to get "past" the scandal. I was not creating the "open debate" that I had worked on for so long. I wanted to help create an environment on campus where a real exchange of ideas would take place. That had been the idea from the beginning. I had failed. Now I had $17,000.

Some of it I needed to clear up some personal and business indebtedness. When the dust cleared, I had 13,000 dollars. A very simple idea had imbedded itself in my brain. University students need more revisionist text than they get in their Holocaust study courses, and they need more revisionism than they can get in a quarter-page advertisement. A quarter page of text can scandalize a professor or his administrators, but it cannot bring them into an open discussion where the exchange of information itself, independent of CODOH, that would take on a life of its own. I had worked for nine years to do that and had failed. Lots of scandal, little discussion. The discussion that did take place always (always) was to the point of whether the student newspaper was legally required to run the ad. Not good enough.

So I developed the idea for a quarterly revisionist publication that would contain 15,000 to 20,000 words of revisionist text, rather than the two or three hundred that might be in an advertisement. It would be printed on newsprint because that is the least expensive paper to use – if it is good enough for *The New York Times* it was good enough for me. It would be nicely designed, with color on front and back covers. But the key to the project was its delivery. I would do print runs of 20,000 – 30,000 to start with – and the joker in the pack would be that ***The Revisionist*** (Richard Widmann had suggested the name) would be delivered free as an insert in student newspapers on college and university campuses. It would not be an academic exercise, but a magazine of revisionist journalism.

With $13,000 I could kick the project off. I would have to risk everything. The more I thought about it, the more exciting the idea became to me. I would have to produce a one percent subscription rate for every thousand magazines distributed. That would pay for the printing and the costs of shipping and insertion. I thought I could get a one percent return. I didn't think in terms of profit -- revisionism is a high wire act, not a world of profit -- but enough response to keep printing and distributing. One percent. The rest, life, would have to take care of itself.

I began running the idea past friends and associates. Not one of them thought it was a good idea. Not one thought I could pull it off. The idea was too large. I should try something more modest. Some thought I would print 25,000 copies of a magazine and then would not be able to get it inserted anywhere. Several suggested that I should put the money into a college fund for Paloma, or that I should use it to finish the house we live in so that if worse came to worse and I had to get out of revisionism I could sell the house, return to the States, and get a job someplace.

But my imagination was inflamed by the idea of having student newspapers distributing 5,000, 10,000, 20,000 issues of sophisticated revisionist journalism to university students and their professors around the country. I wanted to make the Campus Project work in a way that it had not yet begun to work. I ignored everybody's advice and went straight ahead with ***The Revisionist*** as a "quarterly" printed on newsprint, in large runs, not for libraries or bookstores but revisionist journalism for free distribution on campus. I created one scandal after another – Hofstra University on Long Island, Wake Forest, St. Cloud U in Minnesota, San Diego State (15,000 copies here alone) and a dozen others.

Almost no one subscribed to ***The Revisionist***. There were no contributions from students. By the time issue four was ready for the printer, I was out of money. I had gone against the advice of everyone whose advice I respected, I had risked everything on a project I believed in, and I had lost everything. It happened quickly. I wrote about it here. That's when the ADL told its people that **TR** was "defunct." But they didn't count on Richard Widmann.

Widmann encouraged me not to kill ***The Revisionist*** but to take it Online and publish it on the World Wide Web. He would take responsibility for creating the Website and editing the magazine. It was an offer I couldn't refuse. It turned out to be just the ticket. Widmann took over as managing editor, so that work was off my shoulders. It cost only a couple hundred dollars to set up the Web page, and David Thomas, our Webmaster, took care of that.

I had reached that place once again, where, as the Chinese have it, I was living in the most interesting of times. In a matter of months I had lost the biggest windfall that had come my way in twenty years. I was not interested in going back to running quarter page ads in campus newspapers. As the kids say now, I'd been there, done that. I was going to work out something new, fresh, dynamic, successful. Meanwhile, ***The Revisionist Online***, under the editorship of Widmann moved straight ahead.

Starting with a handful of readers it was soon being accessed hundreds

of times every day. We tied it into the Discussion Forums on the BBS created and monitored by David Thomas. As the months went on ***The Revisionist*** and the Discussion Forums were being accessed several thousand times each day. The ADL began to take note and report on what was being published in **TR**. Last July Widmann was able to report (**SR82**) that ***The Revisionist*** had been accessed more than 1,000,000 times. Rereading this claim, I checked the accesses for the most recent four-month period – 16 September 2001 through 15 January 2002 – the accesses for these four months alone were over one million! To be exact, 1,015,234.

That's just amazing to me! Month after month a quarter million accesses! ***The Revisionist*** is a very good-looking, very simple production. It has a staff of one (Widmann himself), or, counting me, a staff of one and one eighth. No one gets paid, including the writers. It's all volunteer work. We are doing almost no outreach yet (I am going to fix that once my book is printed). Outreach takes staff, or technology—it actually takes both -- both of which have to be paid for. **TR** is just sitting there and the world is coming to us.

I'm reminded of the anecdote Emerson told somewhere about the baby lying in its crib, entirely itself within itself, and every visitor to the house drawn out of his own self to go to the crib and gaze down at such a wonderful creature. That's what **TR** is – a thing onto itself, needing support but unwilling to consider changing its nature to get it.

*The article that follows is the most recent front-page story in* ***The Revisionist.*** *It one of the many different kinds of journalism we publish.*

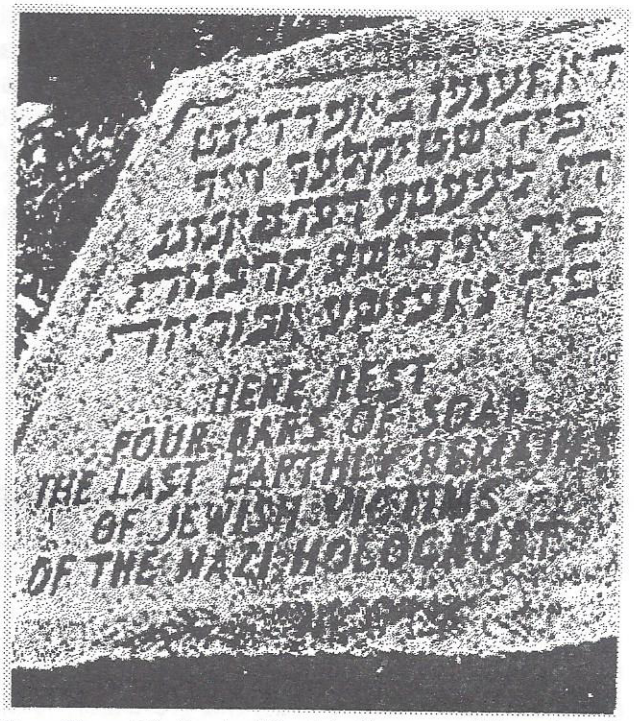
# Grandma's Lie Soap

*By John Weir*

Many years ago a comic named Johnny Stanley was featured on a novelty record called "It's in the Book." On this record Stanley delivered a mock sermon using the "Little Bo Peep" nursery rhyme. The second part of the recording was a hymn, which had nothing to do with religion, just as the sermon was not based on scripture. The hymn was "Grandma's Lye Soap" which poked fun at the homemade soap produced, mostly in rural areas, three or four generations ago.

One can still find soap-making demonstrations at arts and crafts fairs and heritage festivals in small towns. Lye soap is also made at rustic tourist venues, which rely heavily on nostalgia like Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. Instructions for making soap can be found on the Internet. Making soap is not a complicated business. It requires very simple equipment and very few ingredients (i.e. lye -- the caustic chemical used in many drain cleaners -- and fat.)

A rumor having to do with soap circulated in Europe during World War II. It was one of several rumors that had ghoulish behavior of Nazis as the central theme. This rumor was a variation on a black propaganda story concocted by the British about the Germans during World War I. During that war a story appeared in the German press that the Germans were taking dead horses and rendering the fat from them to be used in soap. Germany is a country of shortage during wartime and nothing is let go to waste. The British altered the story and fed it back into Germany that dead German soldiers were being rendered for their fat for soap production instead. After the war was over, Great Britain apologized for this and other atrocity stories it spread during the war.




Soap Grave Marker in Atlanta's Greenwood Cemetery. It reads, "Here rest four bars of soap, the last Earthly remains of Jewish victims of the Nazi Holocaust."

This story was resurrected during World War II in a Germany again beset by war shortages. There are at least three versions of the human soap story as it relates to Nazi Germany. The first and

one most widely circulated was that soap was made using fat rendered from the bodies of murdered Jews. This soap was stamped with the initials "RJF" which allegedly meant the soap was made from pure Jewish fat. Actually, the stamp on the soap was "RIF" which stood for *Reichsstelle Industrielle Fettversorgung*, the organization that made the soap.

A second version resulted in several people being either imprisoned or executed. In this version, the Nazis merely experimented with making soap from dead people. It is not known who the dead people were since the corpses used in the experiments had already been decapitated before being delivered to laboratory in Danzig where they were rendered and turned into soap. The Soviets obtained confessions that these experiments took place. They released photos of dead bodies sticking out of what looks like a deep freezer, a quantity of soap, and recipe for soap. A trial was held in which several people were convicted and sentenced.

Finally, there is a story that an unsavory brigade of the Waffen-SS known as "Dirlewanger" made soap from the bodies of Jewish women it had executed. This tale is contained in Konrad Morgen's affidavits obtained after the war. According to Morgen, Oskar Dirlewanger, the brigade's commander, injected women with poison, cut them into pieces, mixed the pieces in with horsemeat and boiled the concoction into soap. (I hope you are not eating while reading this.)

There is no evidence to indicate any of these stories are true, but many who lived during the war believe, particularly the first of the soap stories even though this version is the one that is most demonstrably false. Because people will believe the worst about their enemies, any horrible accusation having to do with them, particularly when the source is considered credible, will be enthusiastically accepted as a proven truth. Leather gloves, lamp shades, and book covers made from human skin a la Jonathan Swift's *A Modest Proposal*; bones ground into fertilizer; hair-stuffed mattresses and soap from human fat are all tales readily swallowed because enemies are supposed to be hated. Yes, rumor had it, the Nazis put everything to use except the squeal. Consequently, anything they got, they deserved because they were the enemy and they were evil.

The propaganda does its bit for the war effort and the incitement to hate ends with the war. It is part of the pattern of war. It works every time. People will believe anything about people they hate if it aids them in their hatred and assures them of their own moral superiority. World War II ended over fifty-six years ago. These horror stories have been debunked for decades for the blood-libel that they are.

Nevertheless, according to *The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*, an elderly Romanian Jew named Lupu Gutman has resurrected the horror story of Nazi ghoulishness in a documentary called "Monuments of Soap." In it, European graveyards are visited where RIF soap had been buried under the pretense that it had been made from the bodies of murdered Jews. Belief in this canard still persists in those who are still cling to their hatred. The fact that this old man, who was still in his teens when the war ended, wants to pass on his hatred to today's gullible teenagers tells us how much he values it.

The Germans didn't make soap from human corpses. The fact that, at the end of the war, a few credulous Jews buried cakes of RIF soap in cemeteries and raised monuments on the sites to their own stupidity and hatred for Germans doesn't make the human soap lie a fact.

Lies die when they outlive their usefulness. The soap story has been largely forgotten in the last half century like the embarrassing markers erected to buried soap and intense hatred. Gutman does not want his hatred to die, not even when he does. He wants "kids who go to libraries" to keep the fire of his hatred alive and to share his paranoid worldview, so that it outlives him.

A woman once commented to Winston Churchill that if he were her husband she would give him poison. Churchill responded that if she were his wife he would take it. One can only hope that when given a choice, teens who go to libraries will leave this stupid and false propaganda on the shelf to collect dust so that it too will be forgotten along with the head stones raised to Mr. Bubble and Mr. Clean erected in neglected European graveyards by a poisoned past to poison the future. This poison--offered by a dying, hateful man--is a poison that need not be taken.

# *THE REVISIONIST* – The Index

## Issues No. 1 to Present

### Compiled by Richard Widmann

*[Following is the complete index for **The Revisionist** since its inception – those issues that were printed on paper, and those published on the Web. They are all available in return for your contribution. Details are at the end of the index.]*


**Number 1 - November 1999**

1. Brewer, George. "Shooting Kids."
2. Brewer, George. "Letter from the Editor."
3. Halvorsen, William. "Peter Novick: When Did the Holocaust Start?"
4. O'Keefe. Theodore J. "A Challenge from the USHMM: A Revisionist Response."
5. O'Keefe, Theodore J. "A Fake Eyewitness to Mass Murder at Belzec."
6. Smith, Bradley R. "A Note from the Publisher."
7. Smith, Bradley R. "Intellectual Freedom and the Holocaust Controversy."
8. Smith, Bradley R. "What They Talk About When They Talk About Hate."
9. Sommers, Ernest. "David Irving and the Normalization of Gas Chamber Skepticism."
10. Sommers, Ernest. "The Objectivity of Historians- or Else!: A Review of In Defense of History, by Richard J. Evans."
11. Widmann, Richard. "Holocaust Literature vs. Holocaust Scholarship: Finkelstein, Goldhagen and Holocaust Revisionism."
12. Widmann, Richard. "The Wiesenthal Center's Misguided Struggle."

**Number 2 - January 2000**

13. Berg, Friedrich Paul. "Pat Buchanan and the Diesel Exhaust Controversy."
14. Brewer, George. "Holocaust Holiday Proposed in Britain."
15. Brewer, George. "Germany Seeks Extradition of Exiled Scientist."
16. Brewer, George. "The ADL! A World of Sameness, Sameness, Sameness."
17. Brewer, George. "The Grasshopper and the Ant."
18. Brewer, George. "Will the Gold Train by a Gravy Train."
19. Faurisson, Robert. "Background of the Fredrick Toeben Affair."
20. Halvorsen, William. "Going After Pat Buchanan: Americanism and Anti-Semitism."
21. Halvorsen, William. "Wehrmacht Show Canceled: Revisionism Triumphs Again."
22. O'Keefe, Theodore J. "The Museum's Evidence for Gas Chambers."
23. Smith, Bradley R. "A Note from the Publisher."
24. Smith, Bradley R. "Smith Comments on ADL's 'Black Slavery' Ruse."
25. Sommers, Ernest. "The Greatest Error of the Twentieth Century: A Review of The Pity of War, by Niall Ferguson."
26. Widmann, Richard. "How 'Fahrenheit 451' Trends Threaten Intellectual Freedom."

**Number 3 - March 2000**

27. Allen, Andrew. "The Office of Special Investigations and the Holocaust Myth."
28. Brewer, George. "ADL Unveils this Year's Bess Myerson Awards."
29. Brewer, George. "A Tales of Two Ads."
30. Brewer. George. "From the Editor."
31. Brewer, George. "The Hate that Launched a Thousand Ships?"
32. Butz, Arthur. "A Short Introduction to the Study of Holocaust Revisionism."
33. Halvorsen, William. "Morris Shines a Light on Fred Leuchter: A Review of Mr. Death: The Life and Times of Fred Leuchter, an Errol Morris film."
34. Porter, Carlos W. "War Crimes Trials."
35. Smith, Bradley R. "God Bless the Hillel Rabbis."
36. Sommers, Ernest. "Holocaust Orthodoxy: The Road Paved with Moral Certainty."
37. Sommers, Ernest. "The Irving Case Unfolds: Issues and Attitudes in the Irving vs. Lipstadt Libel Trial."
38. Widmann, Richard. "Facing up to the Truth: A Review of The Revisionist, by Helen Schulman."

**Number 4 - Spring 2000**

39. Brewer, George. "The Eichmann Gambit."
40. Brewer, George. "The Picture of Judge Gray."
41. Brewer, George. "Trivializing the Holocaust."
42. Brewer, George. "The Force of Holocaust Reactionaries."
43. Brewer, George. "Get Thee Behind Me, Revisionism."
44. Crowell, Samuel. "Did Columbus Discover America?"
45. Halvorsen, William. "Asians Just Don't Get It."

46. Halvorsen, William. "The Holocaust on Television: A Review of While America Watches: Televising the Holocaust, by Jeffrey Shandler."
47. Sommers, Ernest. "The Guilt of David Irving."
48. Sommers, Ernest. "The Holocaust Defense."
49. Sommers, Ernest. "They'd Rather Fight Than Switch: A Review of The Nazi War on Cancer, by Robert N. Proctor."
50. Widmann, Richard. "Photo Fakery Exposed! A Review of Photo Fakery: The History and Techniques of Photographic Deception and Manipulation, by Dino A. Brugioni."

## Number 5 - Summer 2000

51. Brewer, George. "Political Correctness and Suppressing the Past."
52. Brewer, George. "Hate Hurts, but Bullets Kill."
53. Brewer, George. "The Arafat Conspiracy."
54. Brewer, George. "The Myth of Holocaust Compensation."
55. Halvorsen, Bill. "Thought Experiment."
56. Jones, Audrey. "Don't Tread on Me."
57. Paine, Mackenzie. "Deities and Traitors: The Controversy Grows."
58. Paine, Mackenzie. "Put the Holocaust Industry out of Business."
59. Sommers, Ernest. "Finkelstein's Expose of the Holocaust Industry: A Review of The Holocaust Industry, by Norman Finkelstein."
60. Widmann, Richard. "Denying the Revisionists: The Errors and Falsifications of Deborah Lipstadt."

## Number 6 - Fall 2000

61. Berg, Friedrich P. "Holocaust Hoax on Trial."
62. Brewer, George. "The Trial of O.J. Lipstadt."
63. Brewer, George. "Uncle Remus Goes to Dachau."
64. Brewer, George. "Al Gore and the Politics of Denial."
65. Halvorsen, William. "Holocaust in Palm Beach."
66. Paine, Mackenzie. "Stop the World! I Want to Get Off!"
67. Smith, Bradley R. "Hard to Know what's Good and Bad."

## Number 7 - Winter 2000

68. Brewer, George. "Some Holes. Some Holocaust."
69. Faurisson, Robert. "The Leaders of the Arab States should Quit their Silence on the Imposture of the 'Holocaust'."
70. Faurisson, Robert. "Police Search!"
71. Giwer, Matt. "Holes at Auschwitz."
72. McCullough, Ross. "Verdict on Jan Sehn: Reassessing Concentration Camp Oswiecim-Brzezinka."
73. Paine, Mackenzie. "The Bully Persists."
74. Paine, Mackenzie. "Revisionist Meatballs."
75. Slepokura, Orest. "Jean-François Steiner's Bodyguard of Lies."
76. Smith, Bradley R. "I'm willing to be Convinced I'm Wrong."

## Number 8 - Spring 2001

77. Bellinger, Joseph P. "Can I Sell You a Testimony?"
78. Grubach, Paul. "Hunting Demjanjuk: Injustice, Double Standards, and Ulterior Agendas."
79. Grubach, Paul. "Holocaust Revisionism and Neo-Nazism: They are not the Same!"
80. Grubach, Paul. "Open Letter to Deborah Lipstadt."
81. Grubach, Paul. "Why Won't Deborah Lipstadt Debate the Holocaust Revisionists?"
82. Weir, John. "The Plum Cake."
83. Weir, John. "There's Glory for You!"
84. Weir, John. "The Footman."
85. Widmann, Richard. "The Changing Definition of "Holocaust": A Review of Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland, by Jan T. Gross."

## Number 9 - Summer 2001

86. Brewer, George. "Israel's Diminishing Options."
87. Grubach, Paul. "A Revisionist Response to the Anti-Defamation League: Bradley Smith, His Publications, and the Charge of Extremism."
88. Grubach, Paul. "Convergence of Evidence: Reflections on the Irving - Lipstadt Affair."
89. Grubach, Paul. "In Defense of Holocaust Revisionism: A Response to Shermer and Grobman's "Denying History."
90. Grubach, Paul. "Israel, Zionism, and the Racial Double Standard."
91. Marquardt, Ralph. "It's the Water, Stupid."
92. Smith, Bradley R. "The Palestinians are doing it all Wrong."
93. Weir, John. "The Chilean Document."
94. Widmann, Richard. "The Holocaust Happened."

## Number 10 - Fall 2001

95. Brewer, George. "The Path from the World Trade Center to Peace."
96. Brewer, George. "Whatever Happened to Israel?"
97. Slepokura, Orest. "Doug Collins: A Biographical Sketch."
98. Smith, Bradley R. "The Mystery of Evil."
99. Sommers, Ernest. "On Terror and its Other Names."
100. Weber, Mark. "Learning from the September 11 Attacks."
101. Weir, John. "America's New Girlfriend."
101. Weir, John. "Just Like a Movie."
102. Widmann, Richard. "Not Pearl Harbor II."

**Number 11 - Winter 2001**

103. Doyle, Albert. "Jews, Catholics, and the Holocaust."
104. Grubach, Paul. "Will Michael Shermer Debate Paul Grubach on the Holocaust?"
105. McCabe, Adam. "Watchdogs Exploit Terror Attacks to Further their Agendas."
106. Smith, Bradley R. "American Holocaust: Will There be People who Deny it?"
107. Smith, Bradley R. "Men of Principle."
108. Smith, Bradley R. "Why Do Islamic Radicals Want to Kill Americans?"
109. Smith, Bradley R. "Wine, Bombs, and the Microchip Conspiracy."
110. Weir, John. "Grandma's Lie Soap."


# THE REVISIONIST

## All eleven issues of THE REVISIONIST Are available in return for your contribution

The first three issues are printed on newsprint in (a varied) 8 x 11 format, saddle stitched, with two-color covers front and back. $5 each

The succeeding issues are photocopies down-loaded from CODOHWeb, with plastic covers. Each article in these issues of **TR** typically prints out in two, sometimes three pages. Eight articles, then, would add up to about 16 - 17 pages. `$5 each

Set of all eleven issues -- $45

BONUS: If you order the full set I can include send along the special Campus Edition that I developed just for the college press. It contains new and reprinted materials. In the Fall of 1999 *The Daily Aztec* alone, at San Diego State University, distributed 15,000 copies of this special, 24-page Campus Edition of *THE REVISIONIST* as an insert. [Twenty-four pages, 8 x 11 format, newsprint, two-color cover, saddle stitched.]

**Contents of the Special Campus Edition of *THE REVISIONIST***

(Free when you contribute for the Full Set of eleven issues of ***The Revisionist***)

1. Allen, Andrew. "The Office of Special Investigations and the Holocaust Myth."
2, Brewer, George. "A Tale of Two Ads (ADL and CODOH)."
3. Butz, Arthur. "A Short Introduction to the Study of H. Revisionism."
4. Halvorsen, William. "Morris Shines a Light on Fred Leuchter." Film Review.
5. Porter, Carlos W. "War Crimes Trials."
6. Smith, Bradley R. God Bless the Hillel Rabbis.
7. Smith, Bradley R. "Letter from the Editor: (addresses LA Times article by Kim Murphy on revisionism).
8. Sommers, Ernst. "The Irving Case Unfolds: Issues and Attitudes in the DR vs. DL Libel Trial."
9. Unsigned Editorial. "The Hate that Launched a Thousand Ships"
10. Unsigned Editorial. "ADL Unveils This Year's Bess Meyerson Awards."
11. Widmann, Richard. "Facing up to the Truth." Book Review.

**Campus Edition alone: $5**


**NOTEBOOK CONTINUED**

be in the kitchen doing stuff with food talking about important matters while Randy and I would be in the living room with the cats, our feet up on the coffee table, watching *The Sopranos*. It's a thoroughly traditional story, but it's handled in a way that mesmerized me. Hollywood is so very good at depicting the psychosis and brutality of Italians.

We had expected to rent a car and drive back down to Baja but I couldn't rent one because I don't have a credit card. I couldn't use Randy's card because the driver himself has to have a card. That's something new since the last time I rented a car – 1989 I think. So we flew back. I don't like flying. I've been neurotic about flying since the afternoon in 1968 when I flew from Bangkok to Saigon. It's an interesting story but I've already written about it someplace so I won't go over it again.

So with the going and the coming we were gone only nine days but now that I was back in Baja this was like a different world. We had just finished our first real vacation, I am ashamed to say, in more than twenty years. I really have to do something about that. I don't know what I did for the next few days. I had some two hundred e-mail messages to either delete or respond to. There was a lot of USPO mail. The guys at CODOH were still away or just as distracted as I was. Our daily hits on the combined CODOH and **TR** Web pages had fallen off from about 30,000 daily to about 20,000 daily.

And then there was New Years Eve. Irene spends New Year's

Eve at church. I'm not much for church, one of the few disappointments in her life, but I'm not much for celebrating the New Year either. Don't know why. We had supper at a new restaurant on the Boulevard which specializes in "Mediterranean" food. Then I drove her thirty miles down the coast and up into a little valley to Mision where her younger brother is pastor of an Evangelical church. I returned to town, looked for friends at a couple places but found no one and went home. And then I loafed a few days. What a luxury. And so it goes.

I had wanted to be able to report here that I have finished The Book but I'm still a couple three weeks away from it. I've added seven chapters to the manuscript now, and three of them still need some work. I've been a couple three weeks away from wrapping it up for two months now. It's very close. Meanwhile, there is a lot of work to do regarding the book that has nothing to do with the manuscript itself.

It's routine, but time consuming. It's one reason writers have publishers. There is the matter of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN); the bar code on the back cover; the Standard Address Number (SAN); Advance Book Information (ABI); Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN); the program for Cataloging In Publication (CIP); the Copyright; and a couple dozen trade Directory Listings. I didn't do any of this work for *Confessions of a Holocaust Revisionist* when I published it. I didn't really expect to sell *Confessions* outside of revisionist and related circles and I could reach those circles without bothering with all the above. But I very much intend to sell The New Book outside revisionist circles – widely.

At the same time I am studying – actually studying – how to use the Internet for marketing and promotion. In early December, when we really had no money at all, I invested almost $250 in marketing information sold by Corey Rudl, a young fellow I had never heard of even a few months ago. There are dozens of Internet marketing programs out there, dozens of newsletters, probably hundreds of books, and I either had to continually look through all of them or decide to go with one guy. I decided to clear the field and go with one guy – Corey Rudl. The course has some 900 printed pages and a couple CDs with Web tools and sources for everything under the sun. If any of you have any bad – or good – info about Rudl I would be pleased to have it.

Putting my strongest effort into marketing The Book is not just a way to earn income. Marketing the book will be my way to "market" revisionism. I'm going to go at it from a new perspective, with new tools, new tactics, using the immense power of the Internet. The book may never bring in any substantial income (I believe it will bring in some income), but I do expect that with the book I will be able to make a substantial contribution to – an open debate on the Holocaust controversy. So on the one hand the book is important to me personally – writing is what I do or am supposed to do – while on the other I will make it an effective tool for promoting revisionist theory.

Every product, including every book, has within it its own opportunities and problems. In any event, until I become a wiser man, over the coming months, I will begin implementing Rudl's marketing and program step by step. I have my own ideas about what I want to do, and I will use Rudl to show me how to get it done. I have spent a lot of time with his program, and I'm getting a feel for it, and for issues of Internet marketing and promotion generally.

I have ideas for marketing several products on the Internet, but I must begin with The Book. In order to begin, I have to finish the bloody manuscript. Once I get this newsletter in the mail I am going to turn full bore to the manuscript again. I will be able to put about twenty days into it if nothing goes wrong. I'm a slow writer, I go over and over my text, but I should be able to pull it off. Still, it's not done until it's done.

## Thank you one & all

For all the beautiful cards, the good letters, and the photographs you sent me over the holidays. I thought to print some of the letters, but as you will have noticed there is no Letters page in this issue of **SR**. The articles and the Index for ***The Revisionist*** unexpectedly took over the issue.

And thank you all for responding to my – well, plea -- for financial help. You covered my deep November deficit, and I am okay for the next weeks, if contributions remain normal.

Some of you are waiting for the stickers you have ordered. You are not forgotten. You should have them shortly. Some are waiting for documents. You are not forgotten either. .

Thanks again for your support. I couldn't do it without you.

Bradley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